

Tiso Followers Say Hitler Went Beyond Pledge; Grumble at Absorption in Reich

Foreign Reaction

BRITAIN CONSIDERED recalling her Ambassador to Berlin "to report" and France was believed preparing to follow suit. Page 4.

ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS asserted Croats in Yugoslavia were intensifying their long independence campaign. Page 4.

Czech Gold Seized

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Prague, March 16.—Adolf Hitler tonight stretched the mighty arm of the Reich's military power to embrace the two-day old independent state of Slovakia as well as the ancient realms of Bohemia and Moravia.

Hailed with almost mystical fervor by his countrymen as a "man of destiny" with an imperial mission prepared by a thousand years of German history, the Reichsfuehrer wrote another dramatic page of Nazi lore by the sudden acceptance of a bid by Slovakia to be taken into the Reich as a "protectorate."

Meanwhile, Hungary completed the job of wiping Czecho-Slovakia from the map of Europe by announcing annexation of Carpatho-Ukraine, easternmost of the three major sections of the war-born republic.

Almost simultaneously, Bohemia and Moravia, resounding to the clanking steel of marching German soldiers, were legally fused into the corporate body of the greater Reich by official proclamation which assigned them special roles as the first components of the empire not German in race.

Gold Carted Away

Late today Hitler reaped the first economic spoils of his coup, when uniformed Nazi Storm troopers carted 16 truckloads of gold, estimated at more than \$80,000,000, away from the Czecho-Slovak National Bank. Total financial gain actually amounted to nearly \$120,000,000,—the assets of the bank. The additional \$40,000,000 represents stocks of foreign currencies.

An additional \$20,000,000 in gold was believed held by the now extinct Czech government in foreign banks, but since part of this was pledged for credits it was questionable how much Germany would be able to recover.

Seizure of Czech metal reserves is expected to go far toward paying off the Reich's trade deficit. Other prizes include the Czech army's equipment, munitions plants, and several hundred airplanes, along with vast iron and steel productive capacity, and other resources.

Prague Faces Sullen

On the surface Prague was calm, but there were evidences that ugly emotions were seething—sullen faces on Czechs, muttered comments on Nazi police patrols seeking "undesirables," and covered heads before the swastika emblem.

More German troops, it was officially announced, were dispatched tonight to the former Czech capital, and they moved by motorized transport through the night along three different routes.

It was not revealed whether they would remain in Bohemia or Moravia, or whether they would go on to Slovakia. The latter appeared more likely in view of indications that Hitler would make his entry

See CZECH, Page 4, Column 2.

First picture to be received in the United States of Chancellor Adolf Hitler in Prague, shows Der Fuehrer (right) conferring with his staff in Hradcany Castle. Col. Gen. Walther Von Brauchitsch, Nazi chief of staff, is at Hitler's right. Gen. Wilhelm Keitel, holding paper. Other men are unidentified

Associated Press Radio-Wirephoto.

Nazis Cart Away \$80,000,000 in Czech Gold, Take Slovakia; Hungary Annexes Ruthenia

Czech

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some time tomorrow into Bratislava, Slovak capital.

Hitler slept tonight in the medieval town of Bruenn—until yesterday known as Brno, apparently unmindful of evidences of sullen resentment on the part of large numbers of the Slavic people now under the protection of Germany.

The Reichsfuehrer was understood to be planning a review of German troops tomorrow at Bruenn, where he is expected to make an important political speech on the significance of the unprecedented events of the last few days.

Either at Bruenn or perhaps in Vienna, there will be a meeting between the chancellor and Josef Tiso, president of short-lived Slovakia, to draw up details of the second Nazi protectorate.

Before Hitler left Prague for Bruenn, it was understood he conferred telephonically for a quarter of an hour with Premier Mussolini.

Thousands Can't Escape

As German troops held Bohemia-Moravia and stood on the thresholds of Slovakia, Hungarian forces pushed their way against resistance and bitter winter weather to the capital of Carpatho-Ukraine, easternmost strip of what was until last week the federal state of Czecho-Slovakia.

Germany, tacitly consenting to Hungary's parallel invasion, turned practical attention to the problem of "Nazifying" Prague and other Czech cities which so recently had been havens of refuge from Nazidom. More than 5,000 persons were reported to have been arrested, and perhaps half that number rushed to German concentration camps. Thousands, wishing to flee, were cut off from escape.

"We Have 10,000 Arrests"

The exact number of persons arrested was not revealed, but one of the heads of the Gestapo (secret police) was quoted as having said: "We have 10,000 arrests to carry out."

Other police officials admitted there had been "thousands of persons" taken into custody, but insisted that "most" of the prisoners would be released after hearings.

(A Prague dispatch to the Daily Express in London declared there had been at least 19 suicides of Jews and Czechs, including the director of the Melnik radio station.)

Signs of a drive against Jewish residents of Bohemia and Moravia, including large number of refugees who had come here after the partition of Czecho-Slovakia last autumn, multiplied tonight.

Secret police agents were combing Prague and other occupied cities for "unreliable elements," including thousands of Jews, German refugees, Communists and alleged "agitators." It was recalled in this connection that approximately 10,000 persons were taken into custody in Austria in the first days after the anchluss.

Neither Hitler nor his military and political aides, busy today with intricate practical details of the lat-

est long stride in Germany's "drive toward the east," seemed concerned by the Western world's shocked amazement.

Meantime, as Hungarian troops swarmed through the remaining sliver of former Czecho-Slovakia not taken by the Germans—the roughly mountainous eastern strip known variously as Ruthenia or Carpatho-Ukraine — exiled Premier Augustin Vosolin pleaded, apparently in vain, for Rumanian intervention.

Pleas also went to the Munich powers—Great Britain, France and Italy—but tonight there was no sign that London or Paris would do more than make such a protest as the recall of the British Ambassador from Berlin "for consultation" with Prime Minister Chamberlain.

German troops were reported tonight on all the frontiers of Slovakia, ready at a moment's notice to enter Bratislava, the capital of the two-day-old independent state for whose sake Hitler had thrust forward to wipe out the last remaining democracy in the heart of Europe.

Events moved with lightning speed today, after a laconic announcement, as brief as it was sensational, that Josef Tiso, restored by Hitler to his post as Premier of Slovakia, had sent a message to the Fuehrer asking that his nation be placed under Germany's protection.

With a single phrase, "I herewith take over protection of the Slovak state," the German chancellor placed the Reich's frontiers some 200 miles closer to the granary of the Russian Ukraine.

Tiso telegraphed:

"In full confidence in the Fuehrer, Slovakia places itself under your protection and requests that you accept this request for protection."

Decree Given to Hacha

As Slovakia, with its population of 2,500,000, too became part of the "great Reich," the German authorities quickly took steps to create the legal framework for the protectorate over Bohemia and Moravia.

Before Hitler received Emil Hacha, still nominally president of Bohemia-Moravia, at the magnificent Hradcany castle, traditional headquarters of the Bohemian kings, a 13-point decree summing up the Reich's major intentions was submitted to him.

There were military honors for Hacha at the palace, but before he went there he received from the hands of German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop the document formally ending Czechia's independent existence.

This historic document, broadcast from all radio stations under the German flag by Von Ribbentrop, based the Reich's claim to Bohemia and Moravia on "1,000 years of history," presumably on contentions which go back to the era of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire and such monarchs as Charlemagne, the Frankish Teuton.

The bloodless conquest, moreover, was also justified in the decree on the contention that the Czech leaders had proved incapable of governing mixed nationals under one flag—the flag of Czecho-Slovakia.

Receiving representatives of the Prague municipal administration and emissaries of the German minority in the now "protected" ter-

ritory, Hitler predicted a long period of peace and cultural development for Bohemia and Moravia.

But even as he spoke reports from the provinces plainly indicated that the general attitude of the population was only hostile to the stiffly disciplined German soldiers in their midst. Indignation ran high, although there were no open manifestations of protest beyond disregard for German flags and emblems.

Resistance Feared

In Bratislava and elsewhere in Slovakia, there were far more ominous signs. Rumors spread that German occupation of the Slovak capital was imminent and that military steps might not be accomplished without trouble. German military planes were reported lined up near Engeri, across the Danube River.

The source of many of the rumors was a report that Slovak separatist leaders felt Hitler had over-reached his alleged promises to them. Outright annexation, according to this report, was far from the expectation of many of the followers of the late Father Andreas Hlinka, inspirer of the autonomist Hlinka guards.

Alexander (Sano) Mach, former propaganda minister in the Slovak cabinet whose removal by Hacha provided the spark which set off the Nazi annexationist blaze, was quoted in Prague as saying that Hitler had "misunderstood" Tiso's telegram.

More Than Bargained For

It was Mach's opinion, according to messages from Bratislava, that Tiso had merely asked the Reichsfuehrer for protection of the frontiers of the new Slovak state, but that he had no intention of asking a full German "protectorate" of the tiny nation. Neither Tiso nor Hitler's entourage commented on this version.

Whatever the attitude of the Slovaks, it was clear that the Germans, rather than considering retracing any steps, were looking forward. There were denials that the next item on the Nazi expansion program is the semi-autonomous Lithuanian city of Memel, but observers here referred to the outcome of previous German denials as they insisted that Memel's days outside the Reich were numbered.

German circles were openly contemptuous of the reported difficulties of the Hungarians in their march through Carpatho-Ukraine.